

KENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Kent Town Hall
41 Kent Green Boulevard
Kent, Connecticut 06757

REGULAR MEETING
November 12, 2014 – 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Commissioners Liddy Baker, Melissa Cherniske, Carol Franken, Rick Levy, Connie Manes, Wendy Murphy; Advisor Jos Spelbos; Reporter Lynn Worthington. Absent: Advisor Laurie Doss.

1. Call to order.
There being a quorum present, Chairperson Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
2. Accept/Amend Agenda.
The agenda was amended to add under item 13. New Business letters C. Northwest Council of Governments, and D. Main Street Parcel. Carol Franken made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. Liddy Baker seconded the motion. The vote transpired as follows: Baker, Yes, Cherniske, Yes, Franken, Yes, Levy, Yes, Murphy, Yes, Manes, Yes.
3. Review, amend, approve minutes of Regular Meeting October 8, 2014.
Rick Levy made a motion to approve the minutes. Franken seconded the motion. The vote transpired as follows: Cherniske, Yes, Franken, Yes, Levy, Yes, Murphy, Yes, Manes, Yes. Baker, Abstain.
4. Treasurer's Report.
Treasurer Baker provided a written and oral report on expenditures. There were two expenses in the past month, with \$1591 remaining in this year's budget. The current balance in the Kuga fund is \$7,065.99. Of this, \$300.00 has been allocated for the upkeep of Kent Center School's Arboretum. Levy made a motion to accept the written Treasurer's Report. Manes seconded the motion. The vote transpired as follows: Baker, Yes, Cherniske, Yes, Franken, Yes, Levy, Yes, Murphy, Yes, Manes, Yes.
5. Calendar of Meetings – 2015.
Prior to the meeting, Manes distributed via email the draft calendar of meeting dates for 2015. Wendy Murphy made a motion to accept the draft calendar and submit the dates to the Town. Baker seconded the motion. The vote transpired as follows: Baker, Yes, Cherniske, Yes, Franken, Yes, Levy, Yes, Murphy, Yes, Manes, Yes.
6. Commission's Annual Report – Draft.
Manes circulated a partially-drafted Annual Report for discussion. Further work is needed before submission to the Town. Manes will distribute later drafts for further comments. Commissioners noted that the terms of both Franken and Manes are due to end soon, and asked their willingness to serve again for an additional three year term. Both agreed, and Manes will communicate this to the Selectmen's office.

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7. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Campaign.

A. Street containers – permanent, temporary. Manes will pick up the temporary event containers from New Milford for use at the Champagne Stroll. Tim Good is creating the map for the event. It may be too late as the map may have already gone to press, however Manes will contact Good to see if we might indicate the containers on the map. We will create a note to accompany the glass pickup advising patrons about the recycling containers should they not wish to take their glasses home, and with the tagline “Kent Recycles!” We could also decorate the containers with glow sticks to make them stand out on the street.

B. Transfer Station interventions – Nov. 15th is America Recycles Day! The Commissioners worked together to create a schedule covering all hours during which the Transfer Station will be open on Saturday the 15th. We will plan to have fresh brewed coffee, donuts, information on recycling including HRRR booklets, one-pagers on single-stream, giveaways from HRRR (bookmarks, post-it notes, pencils), and posters. We will help promote the day via our personal Facebook accounts.

C. Recycling at local businesses/schools. Levy reported that the Commission has been invited to accompany the Town of Kent to the Recycling Center in Shelton. The original site visit, scheduled for December 2nd, is being rescheduled and Levy will advise of the new date.

D. Other. Levy discussed his proposal for signs at Kent’s four town entrances (where the Town crests stand), announcing “Kent Recycles”. The signs would be posted in conjunction with an educational initiative in the schools and our continued public campaign. Next, we might take the initiative to State Rep. Roberta Willis as an example of what NW CT towns can do. Levy has discussed this idea with First Selectman Bruce Adams and he is supportive. The Garden Club maintains the Town Crest signs and the plantings around them. Levy has only recently approached the Garden Club. The Commission endorsed Levy’s idea.

Manes circulated information regarding the CT Recyclers Conference and Annual Mtg December 16th Southington (Tuesday): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/connecticut-organics-recycling-conference-trade-show-tickets-12982385665>

8. Macro Madness II.

A. Streams assessed. Prior to the meeting, Manes circulated via email an updated chart of the streams assessed this fall. While we were able to assess as many as we did last year, we fell short of our mark of monitoring 9 additional streams. The Commissioners discussed the difficulty of doing such a large-scale effort with such a small group. Perhaps next year we can be more targeted in our monitoring – picking out streams that have not been monitored yet, or those with risk factors or where we anticipate there may have been a change.

B. Leaf Packs. Some of the leaf packs have yet to be pulled from the streams. The Commissioners discussed strategies for accomplishing this work.

C. Other - Reporting out. Manes and Cherniske will coordinate with Laurie Doss to ensure that information from the Rapid Bioassessment and Leaf Pack analyses is recorded and sent to DEEP and to the Stroud Center. Manes will also reach out to the Housatonic Valley Association to see if we can better coordinate with their monitoring activities in Kent through data sharing and better targeted monitoring as suggested above. Manes circulated an article of what the South Kent School ultimately did for their monitoring activity: (<http://southkentschool.org/news/academics/cfi-students-learn-about-river-bioassessment>). Maybe next year this also can be better integrated so that the students could have a broader

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impact.

9. Planning & Zoning Commission Regulations Review. No report.
10. Open Space Plan. Tabled.
11. Right To Farm Ordinance, Kent Agricultural Commission. Tabled.
12. Old Business.
 - A. Hatch Pond/South Kent Watershed Plan – Baker attended the most recent meeting of the Watershed planning group at the South Kent School, featuring Sean Hayden presenting on best practices in stormwater runoff management. The next meeting will be on November 11th and will be a presentation of the draft findings and management recommendations for the Hatch Pond Watershed area.
 - B. Trail Brochure/Guide – Murphy reported that the project with John Baker is moving forward. It is a large scale effort. Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust has offered to contribute financially to the project.
13. New Business.
 - A. Webinar: Assessing Vulnerability of Water Conveyance Infrastructure from a Changing Climate in the Context of a Changing Landscape. Thursday, November 13, 2014. Presented by Antioch University/ EPA: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/819551073>.
 - B. Roxbury Conservation Commission Well Testing Program: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=773968949328321&id=270791632979391
 - C. Northwest Connecticut Council of Governments. Spelbos attended the latest meeting, where Tom McGowan presented. Also of note: The Washington Conservation Commission is working on new Horizonline regulations, the Town of Roxbury is conducting a “Smart Road” study, and Roxbury is also looking into the idea of allowing for smaller development lots for denser development in places.
 - D. Main Street parcel. The Commission discussed the Town’s recent efforts to purchase the vacant lot on north Main Street.
14. Correspondence
 - A. CACIWC dues letter and survey of needs
 - B. CLCC dues letter and training calendar
 - C. We are all One Retreat – Spiritual Life Center – West Hartford 1:30 – 6:30 – Sunday, Nov. 23rd
15. Adjourn. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Manes
January 13, 2015

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
KENT TOWN CLERK

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BY *[Signature]*
TOWN CLERK